

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
1 June 2006 (01.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/057457 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

B41J 2/52 (2006.01) B41J 2/01 (2006.01)
B41J 19/18 (2006.01) G06F 3/12 (2006.01)
H04N 1/405 (2006.01)

(74) Agent: ITOH, Tadahiko; 32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden
Place Tower, 20-3, Ebisu 4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
1506032 (JP).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/JP2005/022238

(22) International Filing Date:

28 November 2005 (28.11.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

2004-344602 29 November 2004 (29.11.2004) JP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): RICOH
COMPANY, LTD. [JP/JP]; 3-6, Nakamagome 1-chome,
Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1438555 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SUZUKI, Daisuke
[JP/JP]; 6-201, Hinodecho 1-chome, Naka-ku, Yoko-
hama-shi, Kanagawa, 2310066 (JP). YOSHIDA,
Masakazu [JP/JP]; 37-11, Nakao 1-chome, Asahi-ku,
Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, 2410815 (JP). HIRANO,
Masanori [JP/JP]; 1253-7, Shimoogino, Atsugi-shi,
Kanagawa, 2430203 (JP).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG,
KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO,
NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK,
SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

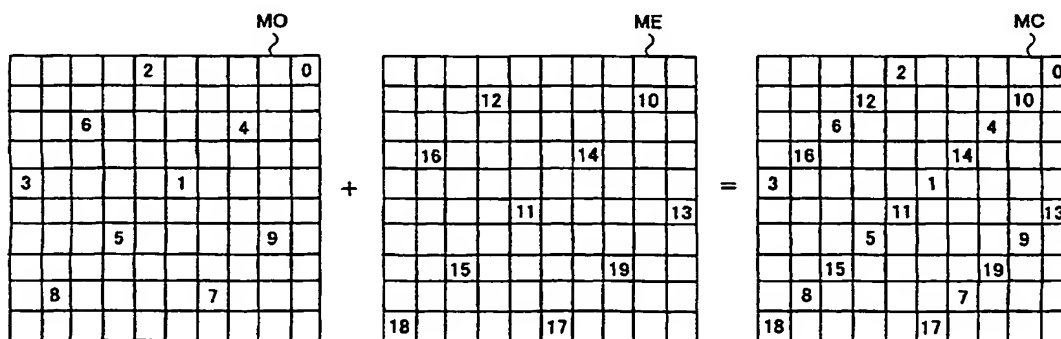
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,
RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, PRINTER DRIVER, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An image processing method processes image data to be output to an image forming apparatus that is capable of making a two-way recording to form an image on a recording medium by recording in a forward path and a return path of a scan by an ink-jet recording head. The image processing method includes a halftone process that is based on an inclined line-group keytone and maintains keytone continuity, including a dither process in which the inclined line-group keytone appears at a stage where the recording in the forward path is made.